

CLAIMS

1. A method for removing noise in an image, the method comprising the steps of:  
dividing image data contained in the image into predetermined unit areas;  
calculating each threshold corresponding to the unit area by using values of  
5 pixels contained in the unit area;  
detecting whether a first pixel containing impulsive noise exists in the unit area  
by using the calculated threshold;  
applying a median filter to the first pixel in the case the first pixel is detected;  
identifying a second pixel adjacent to the first pixel in the case the median filter  
10 is applied to the first pixel; and  
applying a mean-variance filter to the second pixel.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of calculating each threshold  
corresponding to the unit area by using values of pixels contained in the unit area  
15 comprises the step of calculating  $\text{threshold} = \alpha + \log_2(x_m)$ , and  
said  $\alpha$  is the minimum threshold to detect a pixel containing  
impulsive noise and said  $x_m$  is the mean of the values of the pixels contained in the  
unit area.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein a value of the second pixel which is filtered by  
applying the mean-variance filter to the second pixel is calculated as,  

$$\text{value of filtered second pixel} = \frac{\sigma_k^2(i, j)k(i, j) + \bar{k}^2(i, j)}{\sigma_k^2(i, j) + \bar{k}(i, j)}, \text{ and}$$
said  $k(i, j)$  is a first pixel value in coordinates (i, j), said  $\sigma_k^2(i, j)$  is the  
variance of values of second pixels, and said  $\bar{k}(i, j)$  is the mean of the values of the  
25 second pixels.
4. A computer readable record medium recording a program for implementing the  
method according to any one of claims 1 to 3 in a computer.
- 30 5. A system for removing noise in an image, the system comprising:  
a threshold calculation unit dividing image data contained in the image into

predetermined unit areas and calculating each threshold corresponding to the unit area by using values of pixels contained in the unit area;

5 a first filter detecting whether a first pixel containing impulsive noise exists in the unit area by using the calculated threshold and applying a median filter to the first pixel in the case the first pixel is detected; and

a second filter identifying a second pixel adjacent to the first pixel and applying a mean-variance filter to the second pixel.